Sophomore Focus:

Career Choices

DGS School Counselors

DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH

Please put away your cell phones and Chromebooks.
You will not need them for this presentation.





Learning Targets

Day 1

- Future Academic Opportunities
- Career-Related Courses
- Career-Related Opportunities

Day 2

- SchooLinks Career Center
- *Top Skills* Activity
- Set a *Career Goal*
- Explore Results and Resources

DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH

REFLECT

Interests? Strengths?
Goals? Growth Areas?

College? No College?
Not sure?

Do more Research
and/or Experiences!



RESEARCH

Resources on
DGS College &
Career Website
&
SchooLinks

EXPERIENCE

Classes, Internships, Jobs, Speakers

Future Academic Opportunities

Standardized Testing

PreACT

April 12, 2027

Early practice exam to prepare for junior year testing.

PSAT

Fall of Junior Year - Optional

Practice for standardized tests & official qualifier for National Merit Scholarships.

ACT

Junior Year

Spring test is a graduation requirement

SAT

Optional

Additional college admissions exam option available for interested students.

PSAT Exam

Qualifier for National Merit Program

National Merit

When taken Junior year, it could lead to National Merit Recognition for those students that score in the top 1% nationally.

Testing Practice

Provides essential additional testing practice in standardized test conditions prior to spring college entrance exams.

Registration will be in early fall of Junior year!

AP & Dual-Credit Classes

Advanced Placement (AP)

- There is one big AP exam at the end of the school year
- Depending on your score, may earn college credit
- Weighted Course
- Develops college-level skills

Dual-Credit

- High school and potential college credit at COD
- Credit may transfer to four-year colleges
- Weighted Course
- Develops college-level skills

Cooperative Work Program

(Career & Technical Education, CTE)

- 2-part course (1 credit for classroom, 1 credit for work experience)
- 15 hours/week of work
- Professional development
- Eligible for early release
- Transportation required*





Internship Program

(Career & Technical Education, CTE)

- Off-campus professional experience
- Minimum 4 hours/week at site
- Blended course
- Examples: State Farm, medical offices, manufacturing, construction
- Transportation required*





Intro to Teaching

(Career & Technical Education, CTE)

- Intern three mornings per week at local elementary & middle schools
- Class meets for two consecutive class periods each day
- Transportation required*



Technology Center of DuPage

(Career & Technical Education - CTE)

- 20 Career/Technical Education programs
- GPA & Attendance Requirements
- TCD Field Trip: Oct 22- sign up closed but check back next fall!
- Open House: Jan 14, 6:30pm
- Schedule Personal Visit: (Contact Michelle Miklinski at michellem@tcdupage.org)







Career-Related Opportunities

Career Speakers Series:

- Local professionals speak with students about their career field and path
- Examples: physical therapist, realtor, personal trainer, therapist, author, business professional, engineer
- Starts 2nd semester - More info to come - Signups will be on SchooLinks under Events!



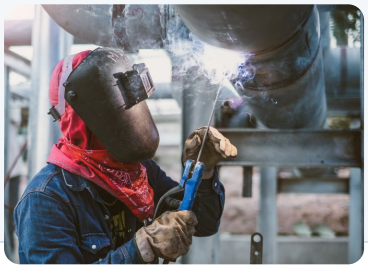
Career-Related Opportunities

Military

- Visit local recruiting office or C&C website to learn more
- DGS Military Day – Monday, March 1, lunch periods

Apprenticeships

- DuPage County apprenticeship info
- HVAC, welding, construction, boilermaker, electrical
- DuPage County 2026 Apprenticeship Expo – 10/15, 3:30–6:30pm





Career-Related Opportunities

SchooLinks

- Go to: Engage → Opportunity Board
- View local job postings
- Gain professional experience and begin building a resume

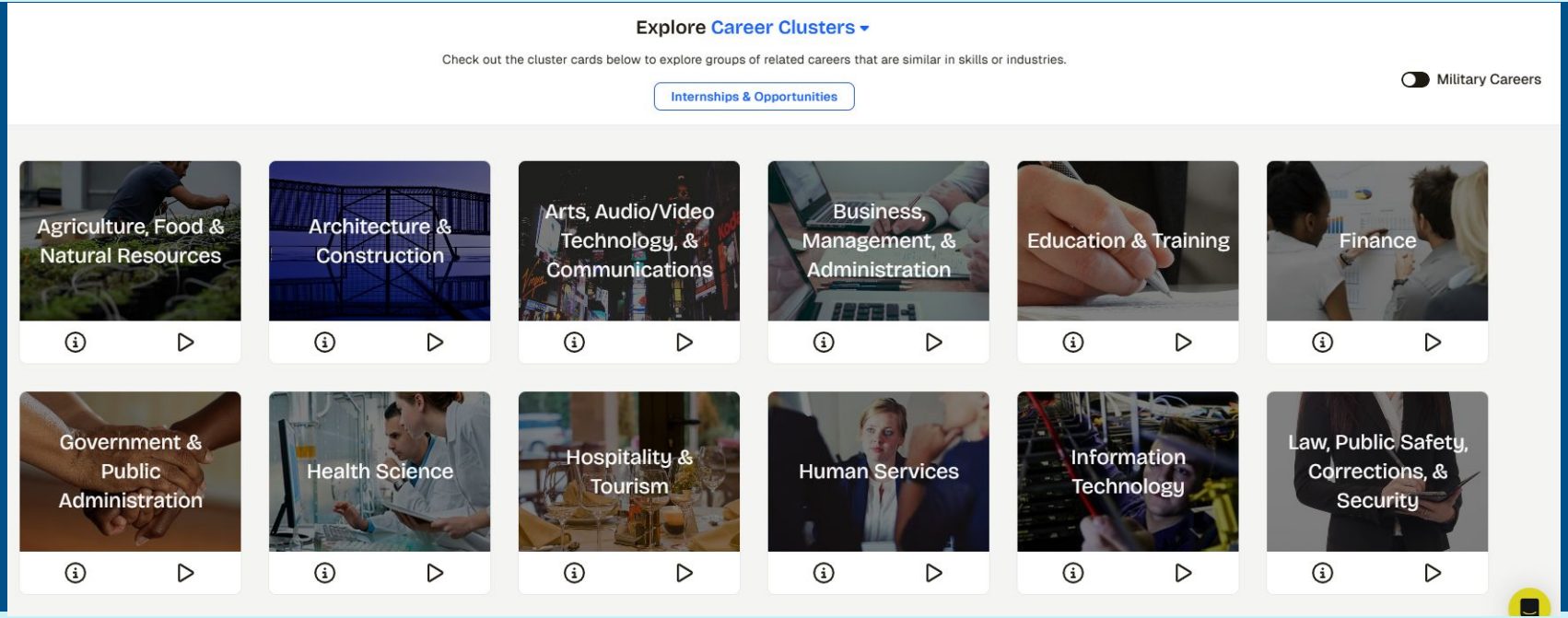


Work Permit

- If under the age of 16, students must obtain a work permit from Counseling Office
- Interview and get hired first, then follow permit instructions

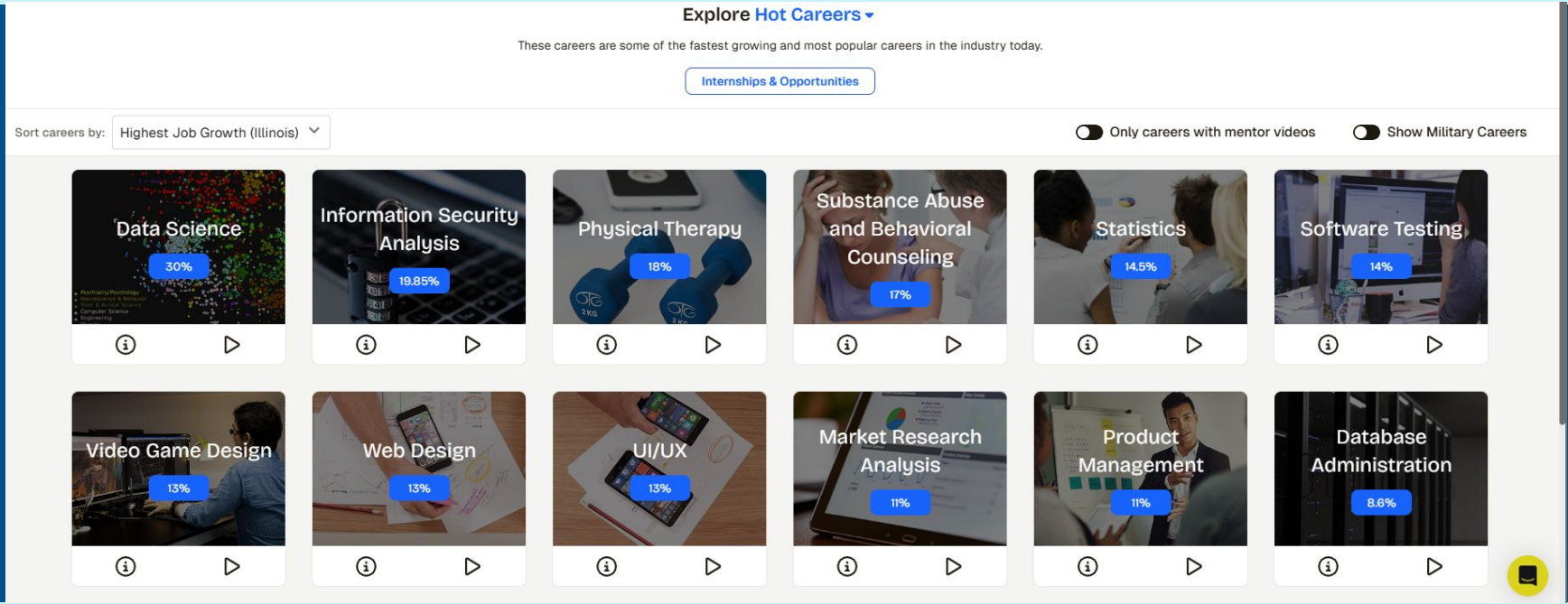
Career Center

Career Clusters



Career Center

Growing Careers



Career Center

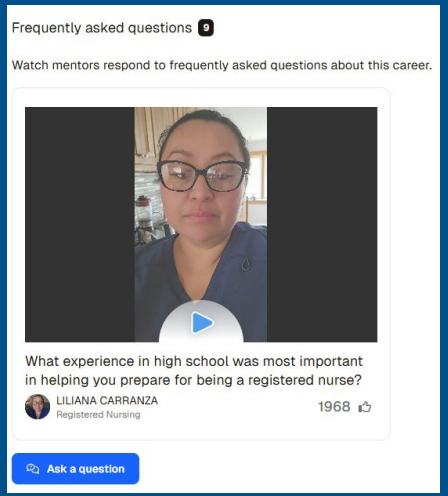
In-Demand Jobs



Career Center

Job-Specific Research





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Day 2:

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- *Top Skills* Activity
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THANK YOU!

We'll see you later for Day 2

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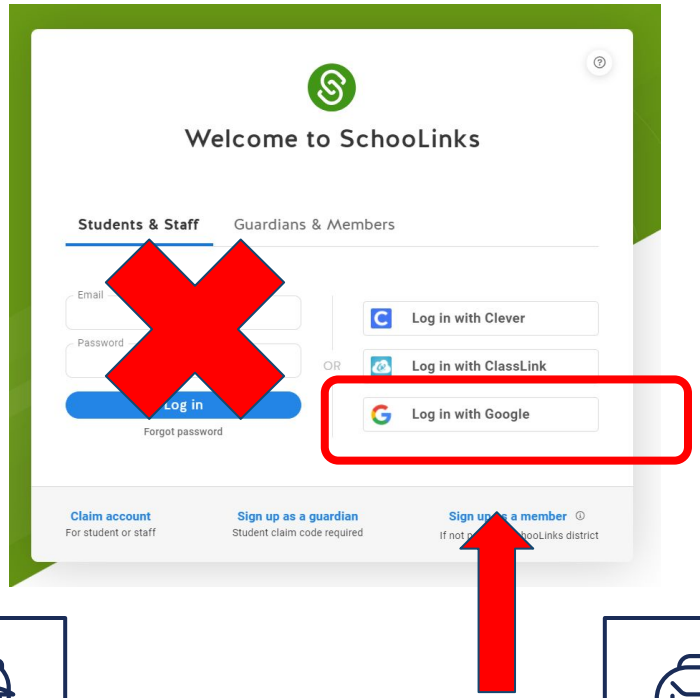
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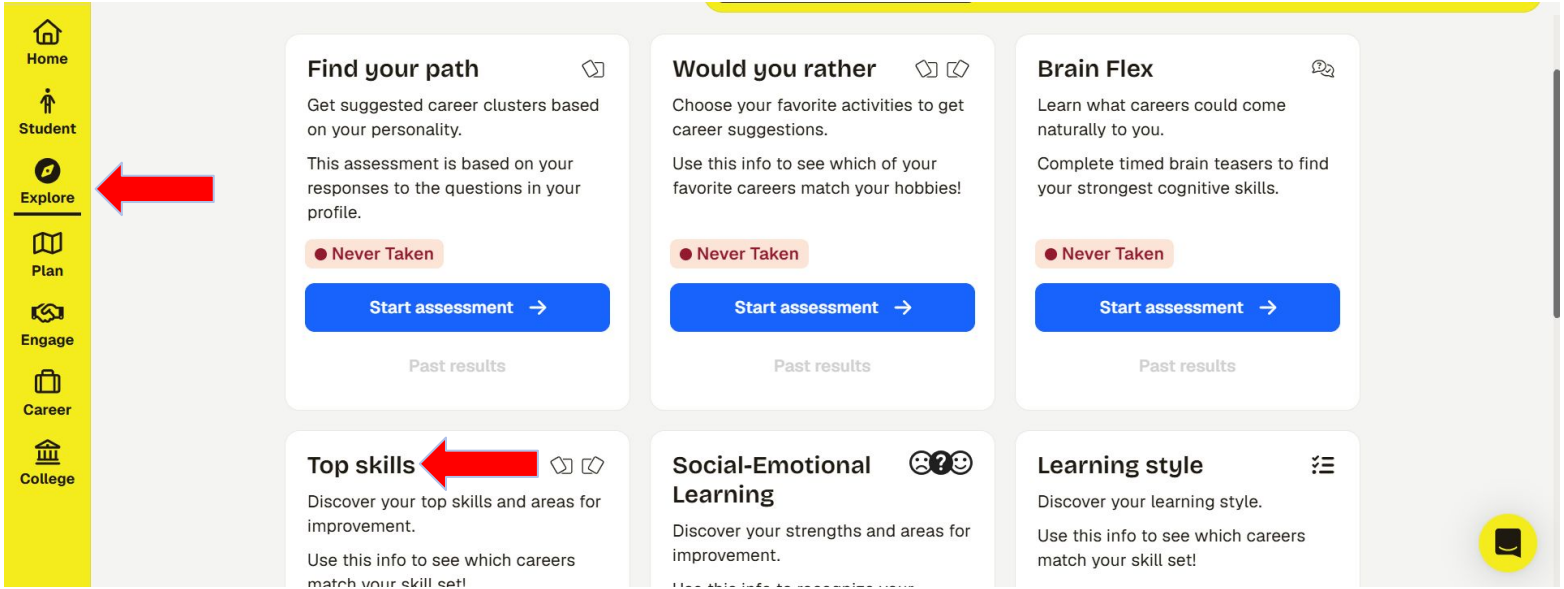
Classes, Internships, Jobs, Speakers

SchooLinks


Welcome to SchooLinks
Students & Staff
Guardians & Members
Email
Password
Log in
Forgot password
OR
Log in with Clever
Log in with ClassLink
Log in with Google
Claim account
For student or staff
Sign up as a guardian
Student claim code required

Top Skills Assessment

1. *Explore —> Assessments*
2. Complete ***Top Skills*** assessment



Top Skills Assessment

Top skills

Oral Comprehension
The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

Memorization
The ability to remember information such as words, numbers, pictures, and procedures.

Perceptual speed
The ability to quickly and accurately compare similarities and differences among sets of letters, numbers, objects, pictures, or patterns.

Careers that match your skill profile



Refereeing and Sport Officiating
Hospitality, Events & Tourism
Learn more →



Music Performance
Arts, Entertainment & Design
Learn more →



Welding
Construction
Learn more →



Railroad Work
Supply Chain & Transportation
Learn more →

Skills breakdown

Click on a skill group below to see a breakdown of all your skills.

Memory
Skills that help you recall information.

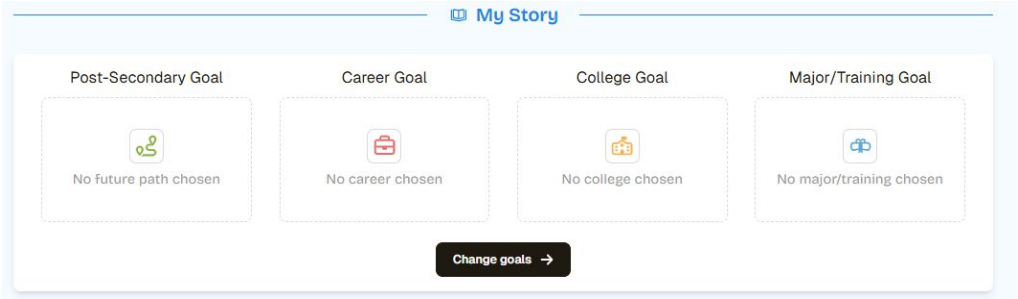
Attentiveness
Skills that help you focus and apply your attention.

Perceptual abilities
Skills that help you organize, acquire, and use visual information.

Verbal abilities
Skills that help you understand and use words in order to solve problems.

Set Career Goal

1. Student —> Profile and Resume
2. Under *My Story*, choose *Change Goals*
3. **Choose Career**














Explore Results & Resources

- Review results from Find Your Path (from Freshman year) and Top Skills
- Research more on your career cluster and/or specific career path (heart your favorites!)
- If time allows, complete additional Activities (ACTIVITIES ICON - ASSESSMENTS)